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LETTER DATED 3 MARCH 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you of an incident that occurred on 19 February 1997. At 1000 hours on that day a Kuwaiti boat with two persons in civilian clothing on board was seen inside Iraqi territorial waters in the Khawr Abd Allah near buoy 15. It tried to stop a civilian launch operating in the area but returned towards the Kuwaiti shore when pursued by an Iraqi patrol boat. At 1220 hours on the same day, however, it once again entered Iraqi territorial waters in the same area near buoy 17 and was detained by Iraqi patrol boats. On board were two Kuwaitis:
Hadi Salih al-Ajami, a resident of Farwaniyah born in 1964; and
Nassar Hadi Mansur al-Dawsari, a resident of Sabahiyah born in 1972.

The two stated that they were engaged in smuggling hashish (the narcotic) into Kuwait. They had come out to sea from the Fuhayhil area on 17 February 1997, had met with an Iranian boat in international waters and had bought 12 pieces of hashish each weighing about 1 kilogram. They had thrown 11 of the pieces into the sea on being arrested by the Iraqi patrol boat, and there remained in the boat one piece of hashish weighing 1 kilogram. They were also found to be in possession of two cellular telephones and some United States dollars.

I request your intervention with Kuwait with a view to halting the acts it is committing inside Iraqi territorial waters for purposes of economic sabotage and in order to encourage the spread of serious social problems in the region. Such acts are in open defiance of the international community's policy of endeavouring to eliminate the international drug trade, and they are also in flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and international law as infringing on the sovereignty of a State Member of the United Nations. In accordance with the principle of State responsibility, I also affirm the legally established right of the Republic of Iraq to seek compensation for all the damage caused by this violation.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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